



THE BLOW THAT ALMOST KILLED FATHER
—Kirby in the New York World.

FUTURE OF THE PHILIPPINES

The defeat of the independence clause of the Philippine bill in the house was due directly to the defection of some thirty democrats, the majority of whom represent constituencies in certain large eastern cities. Fifteen of them represent districts in New York city. Several others hail from northern New Jersey. There were three or four from Boston. The influence of the Roman Catholic church is seen by some observers in these facts. But other churches of Protestant affiliations were said to be actively opposed to the independence clause, and they were the churches that have attempted Protestant evangelization in the Philippines since the American occupation began. The Protestant missionary interests feared the collapse of their movement, apparently, in case the islands were to lose their present American connection. As for the Roman Catholic church, it is opposed to Philippine independence as much as it ever was in the days of Spanish rule. Its interests might be prejudiced under a native government at all under the control of the old revolutionary element; besides, independence, from the vatican point of view is a step nearer, perhaps, to ultimate Japanese domination—and Japan is pagan.

Every time an effort fails to advance the cause of Philippine independence in the American congress, one must be newly impressed with the everlasting blunder this country made in taking over the islands. Whenever this effort is repeated in the future, there will be heard the same protest against "scuttling" and abandoning our "sacred trust." The same commercial and religious interests that have co-operated from the beginning in making the Philippines an incubus upon the United States will rally against separation, as they have this week. Party pride in the discredited statesmanship that attempted the futile experiment in "benevolent assimilation" in an oriental dependency will prove a stubborn obstacle to withdrawal. It is unlikely that another opportunity so good as this one to bring about

the evacuation will be presented in our time, and the present failure to carry through congress an independence measure somewhat definite in its promise is significant of a crisis in our Philippine relations but little appreciated in the country at large.

The ultimate future of the Philippines is beyond the scope of prophecy. A distinguished military critic has said of the Philippines as a problem in military defense for the United States:

"It is a weak, eccentric military position, fundamentally indefensible against any strong trans-Pacific power, but inevitably a magnet to draw ships and troops away from our shores."

The United States must go ahead doing its best for the Philippine islands in government, education and economic development—but to waste American resources on the military or naval defense of the islands in case of war would obviously be folly. For they are "fundamentally indefensible" against any strong trans-Pacific power.—Springfield, (Mass.) Republican.

MR. BRYAN AS A "STUMPER"

Inasmuch as those who criticize Mr. Bryan most severely for his politics are usually prompt to balance the equation by commending him as a reform leader, there should be a substantially unanimous welcome extended to him today as he comes to Des Moines to speak in behalf of woman suffrage.

Horace Greeley once said that without "the stump" our form of government could not be maintained. In the large and proper sense Mr. Bryan is the greatest "stumper" of this generation, for he has taken up more unpopular causes and sustained them with more eloquence and effect than any man of his time. He has set a splendid example of fearlessness and constancy and whatever may be our final judgment of the causes, there can be no question of the quality of the advocacy they have had.

It is well to stop once in a while and put a fair estimate on the services of the man who agitates for

new things. In the heat of the moment when we are irritated at being disturbed we are inclined to damn the man and the measure in one common denunciation. But history never minimizes the leaders, and we ourselves usually live long enough to carry garlands to their tombs.

Mr. Bryan is but 56 years of age, and has a reasonable expectancy of twenty years ahead of him. In that time he will witness the triumph of his fight against the saloon, and the triumph of his fight for equal rights for women, as he may witness the triumph of his fight against militarism and a military establishment for America. But whether he does so live or not, he is in his open popular championship of these great public causes, giving vitality to the American experiment. For when we cease to have these tribunes of the people, the public judgment will cease to have weight, and popular institutions will fail.—Des Moines (Ia.) Register and Leader, May 12.

A LITTLE SPOT OF GREEN

Just as the summer when the day is sweet
And all the grass is green around our feet,
A little spot of green in life makes glad
The downcast spirits and the hearts grown sad—
A breath of fresh believing in this life
That meets us all with troubling and with strife.

You know how fine and high and bright you feel
When springtime morning through your window peeps,
And how you rise with muscles taut as steel
To greet the beauty that upon you creeps—
Well, so it is that life grows happier when
A little spot of green comes back again.

O, sad and brown and dreary were the way
Without some spot of green to cheer the day,
And twinkling eyes and smiling lips are just
The things to lift us from our dreams of dust,
To bless and charm us, as some green fields yonder
In which the children of the spring-time wander.

Unto the winter of our sorrowing care
Love brings a spot of green for us to wear,
And in that light and joy and cheer of love
We turn our eyes to heavens that burn above
With happier light than maybe we have known,
And so in it the clouds and tears have flown.
—Baltimore Sun.

BRYAN AS A WORLD POWER

Many newspapers have prated about Bryan being dead, about the setting of his sun of fame, the waning of his power, and the decline of his sway in the hearts of men since his resignation as the secretary of state.

In Amarillo last night he drew, held and electrified the greatest—the largest gathering ever assembled in the Grand opera house. There were doubtless those in the audience who were not in accord with Mr. Bryan, but they were evidently convinced of the fact that he spoke many truths of world-wide application, and

that too in such a way as to take hold upon the mentality of his hearers.

If the charm and force of his manner has declined since the utterance of the ringing "Crown of thorns and cross of gold" speech years ago, that fact was well concealed last night. Attesting a perfect poise, Mr. Bryan did not berate the administration, but held to the text of his discourse. Frequent applause evidenced the fact that the vast concourse of people were swept out of themselves, and that Mr. Bryan is still a world power. —Amarillo (Texas) News, April 29.



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